

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Peter M.J. Mulier et al.

Serial No.: 10/014,388

Filing Date: October 22, 2001

Docket No.: M190.105.102 (P-8163.01 Cont 1)

Title: HELICAL NEEDLE APPARATUS FOR CREATING A VIRTUAL ELECTRODE USED FOR THE ABLATION OF TISSUE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 21 and 23 as follows:

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21.(Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus comprising:

a first coil and a second coil;

the first coil further comprising a first helical coil and the second coil further comprising a second helical coil, the first helical coil and the second helical coil wound parallel to ~~together one another along a common axis;~~

at least one conductive fluid delivery opening configured for delivering a conductive fluid to a tissue treatment site; and

the first helical coil serving as a first electrode of a bipolar electrode configuration and the second helical coil serving as a second electrode of the bipolar electrode configuration, the first electrode and the second electrode configured to apply electric current to the tissue through the conductive fluid.

22.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising a plurality of conductive fluid delivery openings configured for delivering the conductive fluid to a tissue treatment site.

23.(Currently Amended) The surgical apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the plurality of conductive fluid delivery openings are located along the a length of at least one of the first coil and ~~along the length of~~ the second coil.

24.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the conductive fluid delivery opening comprises a hole.

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25.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the conductive fluid delivery opening comprises a slit.

26.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the first helical coil and the second helical coil provides a fluid path therein.

27.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the fluid path provides the conductive fluid from a fluid source to the conductive fluid delivery opening.

28.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the conductive fluid delivery opening further comprises an electrode opening.

29.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first coil is provided by a first needle and the second coil is provided by a second needle.

30.(Previously Presented) The surgical apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first needle is hollow and the second needle is hollow.